

MARCH 2020

**GEORGIA NONPUBLIC POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION COMMISSION**



REGARDING COVID-19

Given this time of uncertainty concerning COVID-19 (a.k.a., coronavirus), the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) understands that institutions are preparing emergency/contingency plans to ensure the safety of their students and staff while at the same time providing minimal interruption to high-quality instruction. We encourage institutions to be vigilant and take appropriate steps, such as regularly monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) and posting procedures for safe actions for students and staff concerning the status of COVID-19 and other viruses. Attached is a handout that the DPH has urged to be posted in all public areas.

With regards to programmatic offerings, we advise that institutions make every effort to provide program offerings that align as closely as possible as those most recently approved by NPEC and advertised to students while protecting the safety of students and faculty. Should substantive changes to programmatic offerings be deemed appropriate, institutions should administer them at their own discretion being aware that students will still have the right to submit grievances to the institution and NPEC. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education has released guidance for such matters as well relating to Title IV funding (<https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>).

We urge all institutions to abide by the directives of the Governor and other public health officials in the state. However, if your institution decides to take further preventative actions, such as temporarily changing instructional delivery, amending absence policies, shifting the sequence of lessons, or the like, please notify NPEC through your Regulatory Specialist (RS). When it is deemed appropriate to return to your typical operations, notify your RS once again that normal instruction for which your institution is authorized has resumed.

Thank you for the opportunities your institutions provide to Georgia students. Please reach out to our office if you have further questions: 770-414-3300.